

THE PEOPLE
WHO WALKED IN
DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A
GREAT
LIGHT

...

ISAIAH 9:2a (ESV)

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”

Sunday, January 25, 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

NURSERY AVAILABLE We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

Holy Communion is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

For those wishing to commune at the Lords Table with us today:

The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. *(Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available on the cup return table.)*

Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy: *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (Hay jugo de uva para quienes no toman alcohol. Las hostias sin gluten están en la mesa de devolución de copas.)*

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: "ORDINARY DISCIPLESHIP"

AS WE GATHER: The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and "the shadow of death" (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah's prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live "in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali" (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. How many of us have heard God's voice directly saying, "Follow me"? Those who were baptized as infants have no memory of ever being apart from God or His church. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and quarreling among us. And while that's no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Repentance means being transformed by love of God and love of neighbor. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, "Repent" and "Follow Me," even in the ordinary details of life.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

"The People That in Darkness Sat"


LSB 412

- 1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

- 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.
- 3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

"The People That in Darkness Sat", Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt., Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:4; Matthew 4:16

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, . . .

C on them a light has dawned.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 22:22

P Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, "Repent" and "Follow Me." Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

C Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life. Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that His Word may move us to turn from our sinful ways and our walk without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live in the light of Your love.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

“Thank You, Lord”

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul.
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole.
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free!

“Thank You, Lord” by Bessie Sykes / Seth Sykes, CCLI Song No. 16763. © 1940, 1945 Singspiration Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing). Used by permission under CCLI License No. 759893.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4 (ESV)

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (ESV)

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Hana Brandt

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-25 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a Light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ²¹And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him. ²³And He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought Him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and He healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER AND LOVE-IN-ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake”

LSB 688

“Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake, “All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide, Take My example for your guide.

“I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.

“My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suffering be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain The crown of heav’nly life obtain.

“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake”, Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96,
Text: Public domain

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 4:16–17, 19

P “The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.”

Lord of light and life, we thank You for opening our eyes to see the light of Your mercy and salvation, our ears to hear Your call, our hearts to receive the faith that saves, and our minds to acknowledge Your glory. Cast Your light of grace through our lives, that many in our dark world may turn in repentance and joy to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your Holy Spirit, give us faith to turn and follow You each day. Direct, guide, and rule our hearts that we may reflect Your love and forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Jesus says, “Follow Me.” Help us, O God, to leave the cares of our lives in this world to pursue the life You give us, anchored in Your Word and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As You blessed the land of Zebulun, Naphtali, and Galilee of the Gentiles, so grant Your blessing on our nation, that those in positions of leadership and community service may work for the health, peace, and safety of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Jesus came teaching, preaching, and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. Continue to come to us and especially to all who suffer any need, injury, disease, or fear...Grant the healing of body, mind, and spirit with faith in Your never-ending help and kindness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, You are good and gracious. Thank You for the gift of life and new life in Christ, and for all the other joys we celebrate. This week we remember...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(8:30am service, please turn to page 11 for the Benediction.)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

We believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available on the cup return table.)

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION SONGS +

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Chorus When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. **(chorus)**

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees. **(chorus)**

“Shine On Us”

Lord, let Your light, Light of Your face shine on us.
Lord, let Your light, Light of Your face shine on us.
That we may be saved, That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night, Let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace, Grace from Your hand fall on us.
Lord, let Your grace, Grace from Your hand fall on us.
That we may be saved, That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night, Let Your grace fall on us.

Lord, let Your love, Love with no end come over us.
Lord let Your love, Love with no end come over us.
That we may be saved, That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night, Let Your love come over us,
Let Your light shine on us.

“Shine On Us”, CCLI Song # 1754646 by Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith, © 1996 Deer Valley Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Sony/ATV Milene Music, For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License # 759893

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

As You, O Lord, have called us in our ordinary lives to follow You, so You have given us extraordinary gifts. To sustain the spirit of true repentance and faith You have given, we give You thanks that through ordinary bread and wine You continue to give us forgiveness and life through Your very body and blood, once shed in atonement on the cross, now risen from death, and forever living everywhere among Your faithful people. Glory to You, O Lord, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

“Savior, Bring Us to Your Light”

(tune: For The Beauty Of The Earth)

- 1 Savior, bring us to Your light From the deep and darkened night.
Shine in us Your love and joy, All despair and gloom destroy.
Let our dimmer lights yet guide Others to Your glorious side.
- 2 All who stood the earthly test Find a never-ending rest.
Kept within the Father’s care, Hope-filled glimmers gladly share.
Jesus, set our hearts aflame With the brightness of Your name!
- 3 Fleeting shadows will be gone With the Savior’s coming dawn.
All that Satan’s fog concealed—In the beam of truth revealed.
Hasten, then; prepare the way For the advent of the Day!

“Savior, Bring Us to Your Light”, Text: Lisa M. Clark, Text: © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110004673

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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*We are grateful for the lovely Altar flowers
provided by the McInaney Family in memory
of Kevin, given to the glory of God.*

† VOTER'S ASSEMBLY TODAY!

In the conference room after the 11:00am worship.

† WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will resume our Bible Study at 2:00pm on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, with lesson 4. See you then!

† THANK YOU FROM CARRIE GRAHAM

Ascension Family, I want to Thank each one of you for the Christmas Gift. It warms my heart and soul to know that you wanted to share with me. Many Blessings and Good Health for each one of you in 2026. Know it was so Appreciated. Love, Carrie Graham

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Regan, Diane, Ed and Ingrid (friends and neighbors of Cynthia Jacobsen), Barbara Lewis, Carlyn Staudt, Marla Graber, Joann Schulz, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, The family of Jerry Bangs, *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Mike Fogarty, *Mel and Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)
Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney)

Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)

Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)

Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of the Zeller's)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of the Zeller's)

MILESTONES – Sunday, Jan. 25 through Sat., Jan. 31

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Fredia Moore	Jan. 27	Sheryl Maier	Jan. 29
George Maier	Jan. 31		

BIRTHDAYS:

Luke Teyema	Jan. 25	Bruce Blubaum	Jan. 26
Ron Barendse	Jan. 30	Celia Kreps	Jan. 30
Gabrielle Webber	Jan. 30	Brayson Pardue	Jan. 31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., JAN. 25, 2026

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Wyatt Brown
Ushers:	John Aden Mike Adams	Matthias McInaney Paul Walter
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	John Hazen
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Alex Hodges
Greeters:	Nancy Thomas	Sue Lewis
Readers:	Rich Bartell	Randy Schroeder
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Karen Zahursky	
Flowers:	Both Services: The McInaney Family	
Counters:	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	
Sunday School:	Hana and Gina – Unit 2, Lesson 4	

ASSISTING NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum	Bob Ritchie
Ushers:	John Aden Stan Chapulis	Don Brown Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Wyatt Brown
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Katherine Houk
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado Margo Bachhuber	Heather Gulde
Readers:	Peggy Hall	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Jan Oswald	
Flowers:	Both Services: NEEDED	
Counters:	Both Services: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	
Sunday School:	Audrey and Carolyn – Unit 2, Lesson 8	

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JAN. 25–SAT., JAN. 31, 2026

Sunday, Jan. 25	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship w/ Communion
	12:15pm	NO Bell Practice
	12:15pm	Voter's Assembly
Monday, Jan. 26	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
		Newsletter Items Are Due
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Thursday, Jan 29	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., FEB. 1–SAT., FEB. 7, 2026

Sunday, Feb. 1	8:30am	Worship w/ Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	NO Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Feb. 2	1:00pm	Human Care Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Feb. 3	2:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 5	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS

December General Fund Tithes	\$ 39,710.31
December Expenses	<u>\$ 50,300.79</u>
Difference	\$ (-10,590.48)
Year-to-Date General Fund Tithes *	\$ 189,716.06
Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 221,150.00</u>
Difference	\$ (- 31,433.94)

*Total Corrected from November totals



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Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: www.alcportland.org

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

Members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God's witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

STAFF

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